



NCLB Making a Difference in Wisconsin

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Wisconsin to more than \$1.7 billion – 45% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$167.4 million – \$34.9 million over 2001 levels – to help Wisconsin's neediest children.
- Wisconsin has received \$33.5 million in reading grants to help schools and districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction since 2002. President Bush's proposed budget includes an additional \$12.6 million for Wisconsin. In total, over six years, Wisconsin is set to receive approximately \$74.5 million in Reading First funds.
- "Two Appleton schools, Lincoln and Horizon, have won awards for their *No Child Left Behind* programs and with those awards, grants of at least \$1,500 per school to buy new books. Teachers in both schools are being credited for going the extra mile to make sure their students do well. Since the program was started at Lincoln, school test scores in reading and math have gone up, and student confidence has gone through the roof." (*WBAY-TV*, 4/29/04)
- "This year, the Department of Public Instruction put 54 schools on the 'need of improvement' list, including 44 in Milwaukee; last year, the state named 68 schools, including 56 in Milwaukee. 'There have been a lot of doom and gloom predictions about the list, with folks expecting it to grow and grow and grow so that in just a few years, every school would be identified for improvement,' said Deb Lindsey, director of research and assessment for Milwaukee Public Schools. 'But if this year is any trend, that certainly doesn't appear to be the case.' Tony Evers, deputy state school superintendent, said the shorter list resulted from test score gains – particularly by elementary students – as well as a huge push by schools to have more students take the test, the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination." (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 6/3/04)
- "Scores on the state's reading test for third-graders climbed for a second year, continuing a steady trend of growth in recent years. Statewide, the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced rose from about 81 percent in 2003 to about 85 percent this year. In 1998, only 65 percent of the state's third-graders reached those levels." (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 7/13/04)
- "The federal government will spend \$1.57 million to improve Janesville preschoolers' readiness for school. The [Early Reading First] money will pay for a new program, starting this fall, that will touch more than 200 preschoolers and their families. A large portion of the three-year grant will pay for teacher training and materials. Four local organizations that educate preschool children will participate. Parents will also be trained to ready their children for school. 'We are so excited, to say the very least,' said Wilson Elementary School Principal Ann Lund. Wilson now has an early childhood program for 4-year olds, which will expand from two hours to 4.5 hours a day, Lund said. Wilson will also add a program for 3-year olds." (*Janesville Gazette*, 8/28/04)